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## Society for Psychical Research

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OR PRIVATE CIRCULATION AMONG MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES ONLY

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### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

*Monday, 23 May, at 6 p.m.*

(to be held in the Library)

DR D. J. WEST

THE INFLUENCE OF UNCONSCIOUS PERCEPTIONS

*Wednesday, 8 June, at 6.30 p.m.*

PROFESSOR GARDNER MURPHY

will deliver his Presidential Address

at the English-Speaking Union,

11 Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, W.1

The Address will be preceded by a Reception  
in Professor Murphy's honour.

Invitations will be sent to members in due course.

## THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY

THERE are few societies which have not been compelled to bring their membership fees into line with the steep rise in costs which has taken place since the war. There are still fewer which have not taken this step since the First World War. Our Society may well be unique in having made no change in its subscription since it was founded in 1882. It will therefore have come as no surprise to Members to read in the Annual Report for 1948 that the Society is faced with a problem whose only solution is a substantial increase in its annual income.

On several occasions during the past twenty-five years the Council has had to appeal to Members for donations. These appeals were necessitated by a falling-off in the membership, or by financial stringency owing to business slump, or to a combination of both factors. That they were successful was very largely due to the generosity of a small number of Members who were able to make contributions of some magnitude to the Society's funds. The circumstances in which the Society finds itself to-day are very different. First, the membership, far from falling off, is steadily increasing. Secondly, for reasons which are only too evident, it is no longer possible to rely on the munificence of a few of our number to put the Society's finances on an even keel—and this would in any case relieve the situation only temporarily. Though our growing membership is one source of revenue, the rate of increase is not nearly great enough for the Society's financial requirements. Short of the drastic step of raising the subscription, there is only one practical way of increasing the Society's income to the extent required to put it on a firm basis: by means of larger subscriptions from every Member and Associate who can afford to pay more than the standard amount. If, for example, every existing Member and Associate made an additional annual contribution of only half of the present subscription, the resulting increase in revenue would go a considerable way towards putting the Society in a firm financial position.

It should be emphasised that the present appeal is not made merely to tide the Society over a difficult period. It is even more important that it should be able to face the future with confidence so that a planned programme of research may be carried out on the many important problems still awaiting investigation by modern scientific methods—problems which might otherwise be neglected, since there is no other organisation so well fitted to inquire into them. Elsewhere in this issue is a note on some of the directions in which research is needed. The list of problems requiring investigation could easily be expanded, and Members will no doubt suggest additions to it. It does, however, give an indication of some of the matters awaiting attention. It also shows how specialised our problems have become. Many now require technical equipment, long-term planning, and the services of persons technically qualified to investigate them. Psychical research has, in fact, become more expensive. When the general increase in costs is also taken into account, it is not too much to say that the future of our Society as an effective force in its chosen field of research depends on the response to the appeal which every Member and Associate will receive in a few days' time.



## OUR NEW PRESIDENT

THE Council have elected as President of the Society for the year 1949-50 the distinguished psychologist, PROFESSOR GARDNER MURPHY, first Vice-President of the American Society for Psychical Research and Chairman of the Research Committee of that Society. Two previous Presidents of the S.P.R. have been Americans, William James and Walter Prince. Both are gratefully remembered among us for their brilliant contributions to our work, and we have no doubt that Professor Gardner Murphy will be a worthy successor to them.

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting of members of the Society was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, on Thursday, 24 February 1949, at 3 p.m., the President, Mr W. H. SALTER, in the Chair.

Mr Parsons, Joint Hon. Secretary, having read the notice convening the Meeting, the Accounts and the Annual Report of the Council were presented. The President moved the adoption of the Accounts and Report which was seconded by the Hon. Treasurer.

The President drew attention to the opening paragraph of the Report, relating to the financial position of the Society, and said that since the Report had been drawn up, the Council had agreed to the arrangement with Dr West more fully stated elsewhere in this issue. They proposed to let off the room on the ground floor at present occupied by him. The President also expressed the hope that the appeal mentioned in the Report would receive the fullest support from all Members and Associates.

Dr Dingwall expressed his approval of the Report as making clear to Members the great amount and variety of the work done in the Research Department. There was at the present time an outburst of spurious phenomena needing critical investigation. Mr Chesters asked whether the financial arrangements to which the President had referred would enable the accounts to be balanced, to which the President replied that they would, if the appeal met with a proper response. Mr Abdy Collins was critical of the Society's attitude to direct-voice phenomena, platform mediumship, and spiritual healing, and Mrs Hone of the Society's attitude to astrology and dowsing. Mrs Salter said that ever since she became an Officer of the Society, more than forty years ago, there had been complaints that the Society neglected to investigate various subjects, such as spiritual healing. The situation was no new one and was quite unconnected with the personality of Council Members or Officers of the Society. Despite its best endeavours over all these years the Society had not succeeded in getting these subjects brought before it under conditions that would enable them to be investigated on a reasonable basis. Mr Parsons called attention to the small amount of research work reported to the Council as being conducted by Members themselves, and thought that there was room for improvement here. Dr West, Mr Wilson, and Dr Benjamin having spoken, Mrs Heywood spoke appreciatively of the work of the retiring President. The Accounts and Report were then carried unanimously.

No other candidates having been proposed, the following six Council Members, who retired by rotation, were unanimously re-elected: Lord Charles Hope, Mr G. W. Lambert, Dr A. J. B. Robertson, Mr W. H. Salter, Mrs W. H. Salter, and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt. Messrs Miall, Savage, Avery & Co. were re-elected Auditors for the forthcoming year.

## HOW DO BIRDS NAVIGATE? SOME PHYSICAL THEORIES<sup>1</sup>

BY A. J. C. WILSON

*Senior Lecturer in Physics, University College, Cardiff*

THE ability of homing pigeons to find their homes after being released at distances of 1,000 miles or so away has long been a puzzle. It is a part of the larger problem of bird navigation, the problem of how birds find their way, possibly over large areas of ocean, on their annual migration, how they find their way when taken from their nests and released in unfamiliar territory. The general problem was reviewed by Griffin in 1944, and I shall begin by discussing his conclusions.

Theories of bird navigation can be divided into four classes, (i) visual, (ii) kinaesthetic, (iii) electromagnetic, (iv) psychic. Theories involving some sort of extra-sensory perception have often been advanced, but naturally these would not be seriously considered as long as there is a possibility of a sensory explanation. In the present state of the subject extra-sensory theories, like the 'theory' of instinct, are only another way of saying that we do not know. The fourth theory may therefore be dismissed for the present, and attention confined to the first three.

Birds are acquainted with a considerable area around their homes which we may call 'familiar territory'. In this region they are certainly able to find their way merely by the use of their ordinary sense of vision, and homing over distances of 10 to 50 miles or so, depending on the species of bird, probably involves nothing but familiarity. Homing from outside 'familiar territory' must depend on some other process. For wild birds a theory of random exploration probably suffices. We can, however, postulate two types of systematic exploration, which may be called radial scattering and spiral exploration. If birds released in unfamiliar territory simply fly in approximately straight lines away from the point of release, a certain number of them will eventually strike 'familiar territory' and then be able to fly straight home. On this theory the average speed with which the birds return will be more or less independent of distance, but the percentage of the birds which return would decrease rapidly with increasing distances. On the second theory the birds would fly in a spiral course of continually increasing radius until eventually they reach 'familiar territory' and fly home. The pitch of the spiral would be, perhaps, chosen so that the bird can see clearly all the territory included between successive turns. On this theory most of the birds released would find their way home, but the average speed of return would decrease rapidly with increasing distance. On the theory of radial scattering the

<sup>1</sup> A paper read at a Meeting of the Society on 24 February 1949.



time required to return would be more or less proportional to the distance, but on the theory of spiral exploration the time required to return would increase as the square of the distance. Data on the speed of return and percentage returning for various species of wild birds favour the theory of radial scattering, though they are hardly sufficient to decide between the two theories. Warner (1931), however, favours spiral exploration or random search. Recently Griffin and Hock (1948) released gannets at a central point in New Brunswick and followed them as far as possible by aeroplane, thus being able to trace their actual route for distances of 100 miles or more. Gannets were chosen for this experiment for two reasons. First they are large white birds easily visible from an aeroplane, and secondly they are a strictly marine species and never fly inland voluntarily. About two-thirds of the birds reached home at an average speed of about 60 miles per day. The paths taken by the birds were hardly consistent with either systematic radial scattering or spiral exploration; they look more like random flying until a familiar point is reached. It would, however, be risky to generalise from this experiment; sea-birds released inland might well be confused and wander at random, even if they could 'navigate' under familiar conditions outside their home territory.

The kinaesthetic theory requires that the bird should remember all the accelerations to which it has been subjected in the course of transport to the release point, and from these deduce the direction in which it must fly to reach home. The theory does not look promising from the start, and some experiments in which birds were transported in rotating cages make it seem even less likely.

We come, therefore, to consider the possibility that birds, particularly homing pigeons, really navigate, as the speeds with which pigeons return home seem to rule out the possibility that they spend much time in random exploration. Navigation requires some sort of recognisable grid on the surface of the earth. Human navigators use a grid of latitude and longitude, finding their latitude by observation of celestial bodies and their longitude from a combination of local time (derived from observations of the sun) with Greenwich time (carried with them by means of a chronometer). Viguier (1882) suggested that birds could navigate from some sensitivity to two aspects of the earth's magnetism, such as to the angle of dip and the intensity. It happens, however, that the lines for two aspects are more or less parallel, and do not form a grid; sensitivity to the earth's magnetic field alone will hardly serve. Because of the displacement of the magnetic poles from the geographical poles of the earth, lines of some constant magnetic property will form a grid with the lines of latitude or longitude. Yeagley (1947) was led to postulate a grid of latitude and constant vertical magnetic intensity of the earth's magnetic field. There were two main considerations that led to this choice. First, it is commonly believed among pigeon fanciers that strong radar and broadcasting stations interfere with navigation, both of pigeons and of wild migratory birds. This would be explained if the electromagnetic field of these stations interfered with the birds' detection of the earth's field. Secondly, in certain parts of the United States, Indianapolis being an outstanding example, homing pigeon races are conspicuously unsuccessful; it is found that in this region the lines of constant vertical magnetic intensity





direction of flight is towards Kearney; none of the birds flew towards State College. In the region of confusion it is impossible to make any generalisation. This experiment, in my opinion, is strong confirmation of the correctness of Yeagley's choice of navigation grid. His other experiments are confirmatory, but they are open to various objections which have been strongly urged in an article in *Nature* (Anonymous, 1948).

Although the correctness of this grid is not generally admitted let us assume it for the moment, and consider how it is possible for the bird to measure its latitude and the vertical intensity of the earth's electromagnetic field. Following Ising's (1945) suggestion, Yeagley postulated the Coriolis acceleration as a basis of the bird's knowledge of its latitude. It is difficult to give a non-mathematical audience an idea of the nature and origin of this acceleration, but one of its effects is probably familiar to you all. When the plug is pulled from a bathtub or washbasin in the northern hemisphere the outflowing water forms a vortex rotating in a counter-clockwise direction. On a larger scale the Coriolis acceleration is responsible for the counter-clockwise rotation of cyclones and the clockwise rotation of anti-cyclones. It is a fictitious force apparently acting on any body that moves relative to the earth's surface, something like centrifugal force but ordinarily smaller in magnitude. The amount of the Coriolis acceleration is greatest at the geographical poles of the earth and becomes zero at the equator, so that a bird sensitive to it can determine its latitude. Ising suggests that the semi-circular canals, organs located in the skull close to the ear, are the source of such sensitivity. He devised two models, one depending on a continuous streaming of liquid in these canals, the other depending merely on movement of them as a whole, which would enable one, not only to determine latitude, but also to discover the direction of the geographical north. His models were about a foot in diameter and, of course, considerably larger than anything inside a bird's head. With decreasing size the magnitude of the effects becomes smaller, and for an apparatus of the same size as the semi-circular canals in an average bird the effect is only slightly larger than the theoretical limit of sensitivity of any sensory device. This is perhaps not an insuperable objection to the idea, but it has been shown that for a bird to make use of these principles while in actual flight would require an accuracy of direction far beyond its powers to maintain. This would not, however, prevent a bird from discovering its latitude and the direction of north by nodding or shaking its head before taking off. For measuring the magnitude of the vertical intensity of the earth's magnetic field, Yeagley postulated a sensitiveness of the electric field acting on the bird due to its motion through the earth's magnetic field. The magnitude of this effect is also extremely small and it seems incredible that the bird would be able to detect it in the presence of the very much larger electric fields always present in the earth's atmosphere. The suggestion also suffers from the same weakness as that regarding Coriolis acceleration during flight; the bird would have to maintain an impossibly straight course. My personal opinion, after study of the literature to date, is that none of the criticisms made so far are sufficient to invalidate Yeagley's experimental evidence, but that his suggestions regarding the means by

which the bird is able to determine its latitude and the vertical intensity of the earth's magnetic field are incorrect. Dr W. H. Thorpe (Zoological Laboratory, Cambridge) has informed me that one of his students attempted to repeat Yeagley's first experiment in this country and was completely unsuccessful—a phenomenon not entirely unknown in psychical research. Pending the detailed publication of these results, however, we must accept Yeagley's experiments.

Biologists in general are unwilling to consider any explanation of birds' ability to navigate which require senses other than normal vision. It is conceivable that from observations of the sun a bird could make a sufficiently correct estimate of its latitude. If the bird can estimate the position of the sun with an accuracy equal to the sun's diameter, it would be able to estimate its latitude within 30 miles. This is, perhaps, a more plausible suggestion than that based on Coriolis acceleration, but there are numerous difficulties. It would require either some sort of internal clock in the bird from which it could estimate the time elapsed since sunrise, or else that it waits until midday before making an estimate of the height of the sun.

Against the suggestion that pigeons are sensitive to magnetic fields it has been shown by Clarke, Peck and Hollander (1948) that a pigeon at rest takes no notice of (a) a uniform or slowly changing magnetic field up to 700 gauss, (b) a steady field of 3,000 gauss, (c) electrostatic corona discharge, or (d) oscillating electro-magnetic fields of 10 to 80 megacycles. Henderson (1948) has shown that sea birds were completely indifferent to the rather large magnetic fields used in sweeping for magnetic mines during the late war. These observations, of course, do not show that birds are incapable of detecting electro-magnetic fields, but they make it appear improbable that birds are sensitive to the much smaller magnetic field of the earth.

We come, therefore, to the conclusion that the mechanism of bird navigation is still unexplained. Yeagley's experimental evidence for his latitude-magnetic-intensity grid appears fairly good, but must await confirmation from independent experiments. As already mentioned, most scientists are unwilling to admit any basis other than ordinary senses, possibly, as Stresemann (1935) suggests, because to do so would diminish their scientific reputation. The situation reminds me rather of that described by W. F. Prince in his book *The Enchanted Boundary*. Griffin (1944) gives numerous sensory cues which would account for individual instances of bird navigation, but none of them account for the phenomenon as a whole. He sums up the theories of navigation in this way :

Theories of homing are thus of two sorts, those postulating new and unknown senses, usually involving magnetism or electricity ; and those assuming that the birds have approximately the same sensory equipment as ourselves. The second type assumes that the bird merely makes better use of cues available to birds and men alike. The first group, including the magnetic theories, has received attention only because the second has seemed entirely inadequate.

*Note added prior to publication.* Since the above paper was read, the full account of the Linnean Society discussion, previously available only



in a short report (Anonymous, 1948), has appeared in *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London*, vol. 160, pp. 85-116. Wilkinson (p. 98) emphasises that ability to determine one co-ordinate only would be a great aid. If the bird homes in, say, latitude through observation of the sun, on reaching the latitude of its home it has a choice of turning left or right, and half the time it will be correct. Wynne-Edwards (p. 110) points out that a time-sense would enable the bird to determine longitude as well as latitude. Both suggestions have been made earlier by Ising (1945).

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## FUTURE RESEARCH

### SOME PROBLEMS AWAITING INVESTIGATION

By D. J. WEST

EVERYONE must have his own ideas about what is important in the way of future research, and it is no doubt best for each investigator to concentrate upon what appeals to him personally. Nevertheless, I have been asked to set down a few ideas on what seem to me the most promising and attractive lines to pursue.

In almost every branch of psychical research there are matters requiring investigation. Many of these need specialised knowledge or technical skill for the design and execution of appropriate experiments, but the tasks are so varied that there is ample scope for all whose knowledge and technical equipment has been developed in the direction of any particular science. For those whose intellectual activity is catholic and literary rather than specialised and scientific, there is a vast amount of work to be done in the collation and appraisal of material of interest to psychical research published in foreign languages or obtainable only from sources little known to the average investigator.

A complaint frequently made nowadays is that there are no paranormal phenomena available for investigation, and therefore nothing for the specialist in psychical research to follow up. This attitude springs from a misconception of the purpose of scientific investigation. It is not the scientist's job to seek out apparently mysterious or inexplicable happenings. He should concentrate his attention first upon the elucidation for what seems simple and ordinary. Afterwards he can proceed by easy stages, continually checking his hypotheses by the test of actual experiment, to the examination of the rare or the spectacular. Myers' classic



work *Human Personality* owes much of its value to its sound method of approach, leading gradually from the familiar to the exceptional.

The present dearth of the more striking phenomena may have the salutary effect of causing psychical researchers to direct their attention to other aspects of the subject which, though less exciting in appearance, are none the less scientifically significant. In making the suggestions which follow emphasis is laid upon fields of work which have received little attention, possibly because they do not appeal to the observer as 'supernatural'. The topics suggested for study are just a small selection taken almost at random from a vast number of subjects urgently awaiting investigation.

In my opinion, once a consistently successful percipient has been found, there is nothing better than card-guessing experiments for yielding reliable information on telepathy. But first one must catch the fish. Soal spent many years in fruitless search before he discovered Shackleton and Mrs Stewart. Other experimenters in this country have been entirely unsuccessful in the search. There is a crying need for field workers to venture out into the highways and byways, armed with a pack of cards, and seek out more percipients. Every member could keep a pack of cards by him to try out his friends. Soal's pamphlet of instructions, packs of Zener cards, and score sheets are all obtainable from the Secretary of the Society (price 6s. per set). This suggestion has, of course, been made many times before. Nevertheless, it is important and should not be neglected. In searching for percipients it is natural to test first those people who are reputed to have telepathic powers. In particular, one might try pairs of identical twins as agent and percipient in these experiments, since these couples are often credited with telepathic rapport.

When designing a guessing experiment, there is no need to stick rigidly to the customary card routine. Other methods might be more productive. E.S.P. tests using other senses than sight, e.g. sound, taste, touch, smell, have not been reported for many years. Mrs Heywood makes the interesting suggestion that the percipient should hold in his hand a small weight suspended by a string. The direction of swing of the 'pendulum' on any given occasion is determined by the percipient's muscular movements, and might be found to be correlated with the direction 'willed' by an agent in an adjoining room.

The special advantage of guessing methods lies in the fact that successful performance can be assessed numerically. This means that the effect of varying conditions can be seen and measured, and thereby deductions made and hypotheses advanced which can in turn be subjected to experiment. This method has never been exploited to the full. With every fresh percipient the following should be among the points systematically investigated. The effect of

- Distance between agent and percipient
- Clairvoyant conditions
- Precognitive conditions
- Pure telepathy conditions

- Suggestion with or without hypnosis
- Different agents
- Multiple and competing agents
- Increasing the number of symbols which the percipient has to guess
- Keeping the percipient ignorant of the results
- Altering speed of guessing
- Fatigue
- Distraction
- Drugs

Since only a proportion of those engaged in guessing experiments report positive findings, the suggestion has been put forward that the results observed are determined by the personality of the experimenter. Personally, I believe patience and persistence have more to do with success than anything else, but if there are other factors those experimenters who are fortunate enough to possess successful percipients could usefully investigate them. It would be of the utmost value to know, for example, whether there are any experimenters with whom Mrs Stewart, working under her usual conditions, cannot get results and if so what are the factors in their personality or attitude which are responsible for the inhibition.

Rhine's introduction of experiments in guessing gave impetus to a great deal of research in applied statistics, but much remains to be done. The statistical evaluation of experiments in which there are large numbers of people guessing at the same targets (as, for instance, in telepathy experiments over the radio), presents problems as yet not completely solved. Carington and Stuart have gone far in devising methods for dealing with telepathy tests using 'free' material, such as drawings, but their methods are not the last word on the subject. A satisfactory method for the statistical assessment of mediumistic material has still to be invented, although valuable contributions in this field have already come from Pratt, Soal, Saltmarsh, Hettinger, and others.

Dice-throwing has attracted a lot of attention in America, and investigators have been puzzled as to why the effects reported there are not duplicated in this country. Has anyone in England tried throwing American-manufactured dice of the type employed by Rhine? Dice-throwing is a complicated phenomenon which requires the combined effort of physicist and statistician for its investigation. Are there no simpler physical devices which would detect a slight psychic 'force'? It has been pointed out that dice may be peculiarly favourable to the manifestation of this 'force' by removing inhibitions, since the result of any particular throw seems to the observer to be indeterminate and consequently it seems not unreasonable to him that the target face should appear uppermost. The same condition could be obtained in other ways. Has anyone tried to affect the speed of the emptying of an hour-glass filled with fine sand? Attempts might also be made to influence the Brownian movements of small particles in suspension.



Some students have sought to attribute the dice effects observed by Rhine to physical causes, such as varying electrostatic charge on the dice, moisture, temperature changes, and bias change accompanying differences in manner and force of the throw or following wear and tear. What is needed is expert investigation of the behaviour of dice under varying physical conditions.

Visiting new mediums in the endless search for someone to replace the stars of the past is a piece of work every member can take part in. The story of the discovery by William James of his 'one white crow', the famous Mrs Piper, should inspire anyone who might otherwise doubt the likelihood of finding a remarkable medium in an obscure place.

Research into paranormal phenomena associated with mediums has become a complicated and expensive affair. A report of a sitting is of little use for the purposes of scientific investigation unless it is absolutely verbatim. Few short-hand notetakers are equal to the task, so that nothing less than a sound-recording is really satisfactory. The conditions of sittings require to be scrupulously controlled. It is best, whenever possible, for sittings to be held by a proxy who is unaware of the significance of material communicated. There are those who, while in complete accord with the view that agent and percipient should be separated from each other in a guessing experiment, do not appreciate the importance of trying to introduce similar precautions into the investigation of mental mediums.

Another essential requirement is some means of measuring the applicability of mediumistic statements which is independent of the subjective and often biased interpretations of the sitter. This need has been largely met by Pratt and Burge in the method reported recently in the *Journal of Parapsychology*. All future research in this direction cannot fail to take into account this significant development of technique. The day of the juridical appraisal of mediumship is over, and the era of experiment and controlled assessment of results has begun.

Apart from the question of the paranormal content of mediumistic utterances, there are many secondary phenomena associated with mediums which have received scant attention. An extensive investigation of the nature of trance would be enough to keep several investigators busy for twenty years. What are the physiological changes—if any—during mediumistic trance? Mrs Eileen Garrett has been investigated in this respect, but who else? How does the mediumistic trance compare with analogous states, such as sleep, hypnosis, catatonia, cataplexy, hysteria, etc.? Can any objective tests for these states be found? Electro-encephalographic changes under hypnosis and sleep have been studied intensively, but the other trance states have been woefully neglected. Involuntary emotional responses can be investigated by measuring respiratory rhythm, skin resistance, or finger volume. Is the dramatisation observed in the mediumistic trance, or in response to hypnotic suggestion, accompanied by emotional changes different from those observed in conscious acting? In his address to the Society last year, Mr James Leigh described instances of handwriting changes in automatic script. Has any other member been stimulated to examine this interesting

phenomenon further? Mr Drayton Thomas has tried a tentative vocabulary analysis of material from the Lodge communicator and compared it with examples from Lodge's published writings. The method might well be developed and applied to other mediumistic material, including unfinished books which are supposed to have been completed posthumously through a medium (e.g. Dickens's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*). Descriptions obtained through mediums of the after-life and accounts of the mechanism of 'communication' would well repay study, especially if it could take into account material obtained at different periods and in different countries. Previous reports (e.g. Flournoy, Lodge, Drayton Thomas, Balfour) have been concerned with descriptions obtained from a particular medium; it would be useful to compare and contrast the versions given by completely different mediums working in different environments.

The subconscious mind is a concept repeatedly introduced by investigators and theorists in psychical research, and powers of a more or less extraordinary kind are attributed to it. Powers of retention, recollection, and perception far beyond what is possible to the conscious self have been postulated. There is scope for endless experimental work in testing the supposed extensions of normal faculties in hypnosis, trance, and dream states. Likewise, experiments on the influence of subconsciously perceived clues in guessing, already attempted by several academic psychologists (e.g. Coover, Collier) need to be followed up more rigorously by psychical researchers who are generally more familiar with the technical precautions necessary in guessing experiments.

For those skilled in the techniques of medical psychology, the scope is enormous. The assumption that poltergeist activity has its origin in the psychological conflicts of the adolescent agent may be well founded, but evidence from the psycho-analysis of supposed agents is conspicuously lacking. Valuable information might be obtained from the psycho-analysis of mediums. This may have been tried already, but published reports are not available. No case of an apparently telepathic dream can be regarded as completely investigated without an analysis of the dream content by the free-association method. Where the lengthy procedure of full psycho-analysis is impractical or unnecessary, a great deal of information can still be secured by the short-cut methods of sodium amytal narcosis, hypnosis, or word-association investigations. Hereward Carrington once tried a battery of personality tests on mediums in and out of the trance state. His techniques were severely criticised, but with the exception of Whately Carrington's long series of reaction-time tests, no one in Britain or America has tried to follow up these extraordinarily interesting findings with improved methods. The lead in this line of investigation has passed into the hands of the Dutch, in particular the psychologist Tenhaeff. The popular assumption of a connection between psychic powers and mental instability badly needs investigation by systematic research on the personalities and life-histories of mediums and their followers. Such workers as Lawton, Encausse, and Ehrenwald have only touched the fringe of the subject.



There are various psychological problems closely bound up with psychical research which ought to be studied more intensively. Investigation into the limitations of human testimony is badly needed. There is already an enormous literature on the subject (e.g. *Beit, Z. Psychol d Aussage*, Leipzig, 1903-1906), but further investigation is needed of the psychology of testimony under the special conditions encountered in psychical research. For instance, the tests of sitters' powers of observation under the restrictive conditions of dark séances which were carried out by Davey and Besterman could be usefully followed up by a great deal more investigation on similar lines. The influence of expectation and other attitudes of mind upon the perception and recollection of incidents occurring in connection with mediums has never been exhaustively investigated. Also, we are far from understanding fully either the endogenous or the environmental factors concerned in the production of hallucinations.

It has become customary to bemoan the absence of good mediums, and to deplore the prevalence of conscious and unconscious charlatans. Nevertheless, every week the spiritualist press publishes accounts of mediumistic phenomena of the most striking kind. It is impossible for the Society's officers (but not for its members) to follow up every one of these stories. It may be that all of them will be found fraudulent or delusory, but that has not yet been *proved*.

Every week there are reports of meetings held by platform mediums who give direct voice or clairvoyant demonstrations. Most of these mediums decline to be thoroughly investigated by the Society, but there is nothing to prevent private investigation by members. A lot of information about the method of operation of any particular medium could be obtained by attending all his demonstrations, questioning all the people who receive messages, attending individual sittings, meeting his manager, and so on. If they are frauds they should be publicly exposed. If genuine, their value to psychical research would be inestimable.

Every week there are reports of cures by psychic means. Each one of these should be followed up, the patient questioned, the opinion of his doctor secured, any hospital investigations recorded, and progress reports for months or years afterwards obtained. Expert medical and psychological advice would be required for the enterprise, but of this there is ample available within the Society.

It is particularly difficult to arrange organised investigation of physical mediums and the most startling 'materialisations', 'trumpet phenomena', or 'spirit lights' usually occur only in private circles. Even so, any enterprising person could become acquainted with these circles and receive permission to attend their séances. It is almost impossible for a fraudulent physical medium to give repeated demonstrations without revealing to an alert observer clues to the methods he uses. Once these clues have been found, methods of detection and exposure can be devised. The work would not be strictly scientific, but at least it would be doing a public service.

There are various obscure phenomena, which may or may not be psychic, but which come within the field of psychical research. Dowsing is a leading example. The claims of the British Society of Dowsters are large, and the physical theories advanced by dowsters are numerous and obscure, but the phenomena themselves are none the less deserving of critical examination. The difficulty is to secure the co-operation of a professional dowser for a crucial experiment. The more critical the conditions, the more they are liable to be regarded as unsatisfactory by the dowser. If a dowser agrees to a trial, and approves of the conditions and yet fails to locate his target, his supporters are liable to attribute the failure to an interference effect or to some inhibiting condition which has been overlooked. The situation calls for an investigator of great tact and pertinacity, and for the co-operation of geological experts.

From time to time observers have noted curious phenomena in the behaviour of animals which might be attributed to the possession of extra-sensory powers. A good example is the phenomenon of homing, which is treated elsewhere in this issue. The migrations of eels and salmon, and the social behaviour of ants and bees are equally mysterious. It has been suggested that the accelerated learning by rats of the way through a maze, which was observed by McDougall and attributed by him to the now discredited Lanarkian effect, could equally well have been due to an E.S.P. effect. It would be well worth while carrying out some deliberate E.S.P. trials on animals, using as a target some tasty morsel enclosed in one of a number of similar smell-proof containers.

Comparative psychical research is a fascinating field, but it has fallen into undeserved neglect since the death of the indefatigable Andrew Lang. How interesting it would be to take part in organised expeditions to Central Africa to examine the trances and magical powers of communication and healing attributed to witch-doctors, or to travel to little-known Tibet, or to watch the fakirs in India, or attend the fire-walking ceremonies of the Pacific Islands, or investigate the moving coffins of Barbados, or visit Italy and see the liquefaction of the blood of St Januarius. But even though we may not be able to go to these places ourselves, there are people who can and do, and it might not be impossible to persuade them to report to us—as the Dutch anthropologist Mr Bekker did recently. Even if there are no contacts available in these far-distant lands, there is still an enormous scattered literature awaiting collection and critical appraisal by an informed psychical researcher. Dr E. J. Dingwall, who is an anthropologist and bibliophile as well as an ardent psychical researcher, has a vast file of such references, enough to keep a small army of investigators busy for years. Professor Dodds's accounts of psychic phenomena in classical antiquity are well known, and point the way to another valuable field of study. Since Podmore's work, no careful, objective study of the progress of the spiritualist movement has appeared. In particular, it would be interesting to contrast the beliefs and teachings current in the different countries where spiritualism is practised.



One could go on indefinitely throwing out suggestions, but perhaps enough has been written already to show that there is plenty of work to occupy everyone interested in doing something to help the subject. While it is true that much of psychical research has already passed from the hands of the amateur to those of the skilled technician, there are still many unchartered regions where preliminary explorations by field workers are much needed. Our subject lacks the backing of organised scientific institutions, so that now, as always, its progress depends upon the energy and keenness of those willing to devote their spare time to it.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### PRECOGNITIVE DREAMS AND THE DUNNE EXPERIMENT

SIR,—Another, and, I think, even more serious criticism can be raised against Mr Kruisinga's dream researches (October-November *Journal*), besides that mentioned by the Research Officer. The design of the experiment offers no means of distinguishing paranormal precognition from mere forecasting. The demonstration of a relationship between an event and a later event is only the first stage in the demonstration of paranormal precognition; two more stages are equally important: first, it is necessary to show that the earlier event could not, by any known 'normal' means, have caused the later one, and secondly, it must be shown that the two events could not have had a common cause. The first possibility, that Mr Kruisinga's dreams sometimes caused him to act in such a way as to fulfil them, does not seem very likely, though it is one of the possible normal explanations which would have to be ruled out before evidence of this sort could be considered coercive. The second possibility, however—that the dreams and the events they 'predicted' had a common cause—is so probable that, it seems to me, it vitiates completely the method used. If we start from the very plausible assumption that a considerable number of dreams relate to the general situation in which the dreamer has been living during the last few days, it is obvious that we would *expect*, from considerations that have nothing to do with psi, that more dreams would come true during the next day or two than three years later, for after a very long interval the dreamer's circumstances will have altered so much that a dream based on the circumstances of the few days that immediately preceded it will stand a far smaller chance of being fulfilled. (It will be understood, of course, that in Mr Kruisinga's investigation the fact that has to be explained is not that some dreams—less than five per cent in his case—come true, but that more come true the next day than much later; and this can be explained very simply by observing that to-night's dreams and to-morrow's events have a common causal factor in to-day's events and circumstances, while the connection between to-night's dreams and the events of many days later is not nearly so close.) I have very little doubt that, working on this basis alone, without the help of any paranormal factor, I could demonstrate 'precognition' myself to any desired degree of statistical significance and without even having to go to sleep for the purpose.

It is difficult to see how precognitive dreams can be put to the service of psychical research at present. I think we shall have to wait until either we get a series of well-authenticated dreams which are so striking as to rule out chance completely, without the need for a control method, or we find someone whose dreams fairly regularly predict definite events—such as winners of given races.

Meanwhile, it is important that we should not lapse into the pastime—still far too prevalent in the Society's work—of telling surprising stories in the hope of their convincing our less thoughtful listeners, while taking no serious steps at all to inquire how far they provide evidence for psi. In this sense Mr Kruisinga's investigation is an encouraging movement away from the wrong method, though still, I believe, very far from the right one.

Yours etc.,

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT

#### GERARD CROISSET: PSYCHIC HEALER

SIR,—For the benefit of those readers who saw the film about the Dutch psychic healer Croiset, the following points of information, obtained during my recent visit to Holland, may serve as a postscript to this film.

My first inquiries on the subject were directed to Dr W. H. C. Tenhaeff, who confirmed that Mr Croiset's bona fides are beyond the slightest doubt, and who, for further information, referred me to Dr H. Musaph, assistant-psychiatrist of the Neurological Clinique of the Wilhelmina Hospital, Amsterdam. Dr Musaph, who has for about one year and a half been investigating Croiset's work as a healer, and had the patients treated by Croiset under close observation, will shortly publish a full report on this matter, but in the meantime kindly consented to elucidate a few points:

(1) During the treatment no verbal suggestions are made to the patients, but it must be assumed that there is an after-effect of suggestion, resulting from the reputation, etc., of the healer.

(2) The cases included a great variety of diseases, not only of an hysterical nature but also afflictions of a purely organic nature, such as poliomyelitis.

(3) After the showing of the film in London a few members of the S.P.R. inquired whether Croiset treats cases of disseminated sclerosis. My inquiries revealed that he does, but according to Dr Musaph, with no results. For those interested in contacting Mr Croiset directly, I append his address:

Mr Gerard Croiset,  
56 Hessenweg,  
Enschede, Holland.

(4) Some biographical notes on Croiset may be of interest. He has no medical knowledge, possesses supernormal gifts of another kind (see for this G. Zorab's report in the Dutch *Journal of Parapsychology*, May 1948, on experiments on divination with Croiset), and is locally known as the miracle-doctor or Messiah of Enschede.



(5) Dr Musaph holds the opinion that there is nothing in the facts to warrant a supernatural explanation. In his view Croiset's method was based, to a certain extent, on Schulz's system of autogenous training, a system which has been derived from the Yoghi cult, and the essence of which is the promoting of the blood circulation in the afflicted parts of the body through mental concentration.

Yours etc.,

R. D. PAUWELS

#### TELEPATHY AND MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY

SIR,—In his review of Dr Jan Ehrenwald's book, *Telepathy and Medical Psychology* (*Journal*, Mar.-Apr. 1948, pp. 211-15), Dr West pointed out that the progressive steps of the author's arguments in the exposition of his thesis are 'open to many doubts'. Careful examination of Dr Ehrenwald's book tends to show that even this appraisal may have been too generous.

An error, or rather series of errors, which may have escaped the attention of British readers occurs (p. 16) in connection with some statements said to be about the Australian Aborigines.

In describing some of the omens presaging death (and, incidentally, following the use of the fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast* as an illustration!) the author states, 'In a story recorded by W. Sollas among the Australian Aborigines we learn of Kaang who sent his son Cagaz to the baboon country to cut sticks for making bows. He was caught by the baboons and killed. Kaang was asleep at the time, but when he awoke he found out "by his magic" what had happened; so he went to the baboons to revenge his son.'

The story which Dr Ehrenwald has paraphrased appears on p. 288 of *Ancient Hunters and their Modern Representatives* by W. J. Sollas (1911 edn). It is a native story explaining how baboons came to have their tails and why their tails are crooked.

The story, however, is not about Australian Aborigines at all (as would be quite obvious to anyone with any knowledge of these primitive people) but about *African Bushmen*! Both of the native names (which bear no resemblance to Australian Aboriginal names) are incorrectly quoted. Kaang should be 'Kaang and Cagaz should be Cogaz. Even allowing for a moderate amount of carelessness in quotation, a scientist with Dr Ehrenwald's qualifications should have an elementary knowledge of biology, of the Wallace line, and consequently the fact that baboons are not native to Australia. He possibly could be excused not being aware that Australian Aborigines do not use bows and arrows, except that the very authority from which he has taken his example specifically states (p. 172, 1911 edn) that the Aborigines have never used bows and arrows. How this simple matter of copying from a book could have become so confused is beyond normal comprehension.

Such errors as these throw doubt upon other matter presented in the book, particularly when references to works quoted are so poor as to tend to hinder rather than assist in verification if this is desired, and may leave even the most sagacious reader with some apprehension as to what may

be accepted and what rejected. They, of course, detract very considerably from whatever value some of Dr Ehrenwald's observations and inferences may have, particularly when it is apparent that the strength of his thesis results from a careful sifting of the facts so that only those favourable to his theory are presented. The device of using part only of the known facts whilst ignoring the remainder should have no place in serious psychic research.

Dr Ehrenwald states (p. 198) that, 'Even Rhine's champion percipients were unable to guess every card every time with anything like the accuracy required from ordinary sensory functions.' This slighting observation seems sadly out of place when, in fact, the best examples of telepathy on record exceed in accuracy his own sensory effort of copying out the example of the 'Australian Aborigines'.

Yours etc.,

RONALD ROSE

#### FORMATION OF GROUPS AND CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MEMBERS

SIR,—On page 7 of the *Journal* for Jan.-Feb. 1949 the Council express the hope that it may be possible for Members resident in the provinces to organise groups, etc.

May I suggest that those who would like to form local groups or correspond with other Members of the Society should be asked to send in their names and addresses for publication in the *Journal*? If space permits, a brief indication of their interests might be added.

It is not easy to find people with the same outlook on supernatural phenomena as that of the Society, and one's interest is therefore likely to become purely academic. An arrangement such as that suggested would enable Members to take a more practical interest should they wish to do so.

It would also enable Members who are abroad and who may be even more isolated than those at home to correspond with others in the Society.

Yours etc.,

B. NISBET

20 St Catherine's Terrace,  
Hove 3, Sussex

[The Hon. Editor is grateful to Mr Nisbet for this suggestion, and will be glad to print the names and addresses of Members, with an indication of their interests, if desired, who wish to communicate with other Members. The new list of Members and Associates of the Society, which will be published shortly as a Supplement to *Proceedings*, will enable those interested in forming local groups to get in touch with others in their locality.]

#### REVIEWS

OORLOGSVOORSPELLINGEN. By Dr W. H. C. Tenhaeff. The Hague, H. P. Leopolds Publishing Co., 1948. 271 pp.

In 1940, shortly after the overwhelming of the Low Countries by the enemy, the author decided to start an investigation into the prophecies



which had been and were being made by supernormally gifted persons in regard to the outbreak and course of the war. For this purpose a questionnaire was sent to a number of people, and a certain amount of publicity given to it by means of the radio, press and lectures. The investigation lasted for several years and could not be completed until after the liberation owing to the disapproving attitude of the Germans towards psychical research. About a hundred persons answered the questionnaire, and the core of Dr Tenhaeff's book is made up of the material which remained after the necessary checking and selection had been effected. It contains a series of visions, dreams and Dunne-effects—some of them very remarkable cases—which are well corroborated by witnesses, and which the author is convinced contain genuine precognitive elements. Marked events of the war, such as the bombing of Rotterdam and the Hague, the battle of Arnhem, and the rounding up of students in University cities all over the country, were in more or less detail correctly foreseen in the fate of the individuals concerned. Arising from an analysis of the cases the interesting point to note—and this is Dr Tenhaeff's most important conclusion from his comparative studies—is that the fate of communities can rarely be deduced except from the forecast future of the individuals who make up the community. It is thus that confirmation was obtained of the finding of Osty, twenty-five years ago, that numerous general prophecies can be reduced to personal ones. The question whether this is always so, and whether any cases of general forecasts occur which bear no relation to the personal element, the author leaves undecided.

A second important point which the investigation brought out is that many of the precognitive dreams indicate their supernormal origin through a strong realisation by the dreamer of the phenomenological difference of these visions from ordinary dreams. The special character of precognitive visions, often making a vivid and lasting impression, is exemplified in the following case. It concerns a teacher of music, Miss v. d. W. of B., who from 1938 onwards had visions which proved to be correct forecasts of subsequent war events. In regard to the way in which she experiences the visions, she states: 'The visions always occur during my sleep (they are therefore dream-images). Afterwards I always wake up and then the images stand out clearly in my mind. It is curious that usually the day after I have had such a dream, I am dead tired. This tiredness occurred in particular after those dreams which were related to the war. The tiredness always went gradually and did not disappear until several days later.'

It also often happens that a genuinely precognitive dream frequently recurs. This is the case with a Mrs R. of E., who for a period of forty years dreamt that a certain part of Rotterdam, largely between the river Maas and the Exchange, would be reduced to a barren plain with here and there a heap of rubble. In the years 1938 and 1939 and the beginning of 1940 this dream recurred very often, and the images were particularly clear. After waking up she felt very depressed, and this feeling continued for hours. After the bombing of Rotterdam this dream did not return.

These facts concerning the distinctive nature of precognitive dreams, and the way they are perceived, have to be taken into account when an endeavour is made to ascertain to what extent the correspondence between

vision and reality can be explained by chance coincidence, in an evaluation on statistical lines. In addition Dr Tenhaeff points out that the often very detailed congruency of the dream image with reality would, in such a quantitative evaluation, reduce the chance factor to a very small (negligible) fraction.

In a short chapter are discussed the relative advantages of the quantitative method of investigating E.S.P. (such as Rhine's and Soal's experiments in card-guessing) over the qualitative method of investigating spontaneous cases, due to the greater sensitivity for the detection of E.S.P. of the first method. Dr Tenhaeff concludes: 'He who applies the quantitative method need not wait till fate blesses him with a highly gifted subject, but he can suffice with a moderately gifted subject, whom as a rule he will discover in his environment without much difficulty.' This statement may seem to the reader in this country somewhat optimistic in view of the great difficulty experienced by British psychical researchers in finding high-scoring subjects in E.S.P. experiments. It may also be questioned whether the greater sensitivity of the quantitative method is not considerably offset by inhibitive factors and by lack of stimulation in laboratory conditions. On the other hand, however, it must be realised that according to the latest reports from the Netherlands, in that country no such dearth of successful subjects seems to exist, and E.S.P. tests in Secondary schools have been particularly successful in discovering a fair number of high-scoring young persons.

Dr Tenhaeff's latest book is a valuable contribution to the study of precognition, and the author deserves the gratitude of all psychical researchers for undertaking these important investigations.

R. D. P.

THE JOURNAL OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY, Vol. XII, No. 4, December 1948.  
Durham, N.C., Duke University Press. \$1.25.

An Editorial by Professor Rhine gives an account of the work he is doing on the classification of reports of spontaneous cases, whose value he considers lies not in their evidential value but in their usefulness for indicating directions for laboratory investigation.

An article by J. G. Pratt and W. R. Birge suggests a new method of evaluating verbal material, such as mediumistic communications. The advantage claimed for it is that it makes no assumption as to the independence of separate items within any one script. It is based on a mathematical method developed by Dr Greville. The essence of the method is that if there are five scripts obtained with five sitters and all are marked by the sitters without knowledge of which is their own script, then there are 120 permutations of sitters to scripts which would give 120 different possible scores. The significance of a score actually obtained by the true arrangement of sitters to scripts may be judged by comparing it with the remaining 119 possible scores. In order to avoid the necessity for working out these 120 possible scores, a method is used to obtain this comparison indirectly by determining the mean and variance of the possible scores.

The method seems promising and, in some respects, better than anything we have at present, yet detailed examination of the example worked out by the authors leaves one in doubt whether the Greville statistical



method is completely applicable to data giving scores so far from normal distribution. The authors' calculation gives a value of  $P$  (the probability of a chance deviation in the direction observed) of  $\cdot 013$ . But examination of the table shows that six other permutations of sitters would have given a score higher than that observed which leads to a value of  $P$  which is  $\frac{7}{120}$  or  $\cdot 06$ . This is a considerable discrepancy which suggests that, for these data, the method has much overestimated the significance. Nevertheless, in cases such as that given as illustration in this article, the basic method may be applied directly by determining what permutations of sitters give scores equal to or greater than that observed with the correct arrangement of sitters.

Dr R. G. MacRobert gives the results of a questionnaire issued to neuropsychiatrists on their knowledge of and attitudes towards parapsychology. It is encouraging to learn that nearly forty per cent are familiar with the E.S.P. work. Perhaps this figure will be greater in a few years.

Mr Birge reports the results of a successful experiment in pure telepathy.

There is a review by Professor Broad of Signe Toksvig's book on Swedenborg.

R. H. THOULESS

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## THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

FOR some time past the Research Officer has with the full approval of the Council been following a course in psychiatry with a view to taking the examination for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine. His studies will, in the Council's opinion, prove to have been of material assistance in the Society's work.

On the termination of his contract with the Society, Dr West intends to practise as a psychiatrist, while kindly offering to attend to the Society's research as Hon. Research Officer outside professional hours. The Council have accepted this offer and agreed that to help him in doing this work he should continue to reside in the flat at 31 Tavistock Square. They feel sure that they are expressing the feelings of the whole Society in wishing him all success in his profession.

This arrangement, when put into effect, will result in a substantial economy, and, provided that Members will co-operate with the Officers of the Society, should not cause any serious dislocation of our research work.

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## S.P.R. PUBLICATIONS

ALTHOUGH Members and Associates receive a free copy of every publication issued by the Society subsequently to their election, some may not be aware that there are still supplies of certain printed pamphlets and booklets published before they were elected. This material may not only be of interest to Members themselves but can be put to good use by those who wish to introduce their friends to the work of the Society. The prices at which these publications are available to Members and Associates are as follows:

- Telepathy and Allied Phenomena*.<sup>1</sup> By Rosalind Heywood ; with a section on Quantitative Experiments by S. G. Soal. 1948. 9d.
- The Society for Psychical Research : An Outline of its History*. By W. H. Salter. 1948. 1s. 6d.
- The Society for Psychical Research*. By G. N. M. Tyrrell; what it is, what it has accomplished, and why its work is important. 1945. 6d.
- Evidence of Personal Survival from Cross-Correspondences*. By H. F. Saltmarsh. 1938. 3s. 6d.
- Evidence of Purpose*. By Z. Richmond. 1938. 3s. 6d.
- Foreknowledge*. By H. F. Saltmarsh. 1938. 3s. 6d.
- Ghosts and Apparitions*. By W. H. Salter. 1938. 3s. 6d.
- Evidence of Identity*. By K. Richmond. 1938. 3s. 6d.

## THE FREDERIC W. H. MYERS MEMORIAL LECTURES

- Supernormal Aspects of Energy and Matter*. By Dr Eugene Osty. 1933. 1s. 6d.
- The Meaning of 'Survival'*. By W. Whately Carington. 1935. 9d.
- Supernormal Faculty and the Structure of the Mind*. By C. A. Mace. 1937. 9d.
- Psychical Research : Where Do We Stand?* By Mrs W. H. Salter. 1945. 9d.
- The Experimental Situation in Psychical Research*. By S. G. Soal, D.Sc. 1947. 1s. 6d.

Members elected in recent years may also be interested to know that nearly all the past volumes of *Proceedings* and *Journal* are still available in bound form. This material constitutes a library in itself, unrivalled in the field of psychical research. As the stock of some volumes is very low, those who wish to obtain all or part of this collection should apply without delay.

## PROCEEDINGS

Available at half the published price, the cost to Members and Associates varies from 6s. to 15s. per volume. A list of contents and prices will be sent on application. Volume XLVII is out of print.

## JOURNAL

Volumes I and II	15s. each
Volume III	10s. 6d.
Volumes IV, V and VI are out of print	
Volume VII onwards	10s. 6d. each

## BINDING CASES

Cases in which Members may have their own copies of *Proceedings* and *Journal* bound in book form can be supplied at 2s. 6d. each. It is regretted that the Society cannot arrange for the binding of Members' copies.

<sup>1</sup> The first impression of this pamphlet has just been exhausted, but a reprint has been ordered and should be ready in June.



## NOTICES TO MEMBERS

## APPEAL FOR TRANSLATORS

The Joint Hon. Secretaries would be glad to hear from Members and Associates able to translate into English material on psychical research in foreign languages, especially German, Italian, Dutch, and the Scandinavian languages.

## BINDING CASES FOR VOLUME XXXIV OF JOURNAL

Binding cases for Volume XXXIV (1947-8) of the *Journal* are now ready, and may be obtained from the Secretary, price 2s. 6d.

## RESEARCH, REPORTS OF CASES, ETC.

Members are invited to send to the Research Officer reports of experimental work and of sittings with mediums and spontaneous cases that appear to be evidential. He will always be glad to give advice to those who are contemplating carrying out research on their own.

Members are reminded that the two Members of the Society whose names are given below have kindly consented to deal with any letters addressed to them relating to incidents or experiences which seem to be of subjective or personal interest rather than of evidential value :

Mrs K. Richmond,  
80 Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1.

Miss H. Harding,  
57 Holland Park, London, W.11.

These two Members and any Officers of the Society can also be seen by *appointment*. They are glad to extend these facilities to Members and Non-Members alike.

## MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

THE 443rd Meeting of the Council was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, on Monday, 17 January 1949 at 4 p.m., the President, Mr W. H. SALTER, in the Chair. The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were read and signed as correct. Fourteen new Members and one Student-Associate were elected. Their names and addresses are given below.

The 444th Meeting of the Council was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, on Thursday, 24 February 1949, at 2.15 p.m., the President, Mr W. H. SALTER, in the Chair. The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were read and signed as correct. Seventeen new Members and three Student-Associates were elected. Their names and addresses are given below.

The 445th Meeting of the Council was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, on Thursday, 24 February 1949, immediately after the Annual General Meeting, the President, Mr W. H. Salter in the Chair.

Professor Gardner Murphy was elected President for the year; Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt, Hon. Treasurer; Mr W. H. Salter and Mr D. A. H. Parsons, Hon. Secretaries; Mrs W. H. Salter, Hon. Editor of *Proceedings* and Mr Edward Osborn, Hon. Editor of the *Journal*.

Committees were elected as follows:

*Committee of Reference and Publication*: Professor C. D. Broad, Mrs F. Heywood, Mr D. Parsons, Professor H. H. Price, Mr W. H. Salter, Mrs W. H. Salter, Dr S. G. Soal, Dr R. H. Thouless, Mr G. N. M. Tyrrell and Dr D. J. West.

*Finance Committee*: Mrs Goldney, Lord Charles Hope, Mr G. W. Lambert and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

*House Committee*: Miss Jephson, Miss Newton, Mr W. H. Salter and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

Corresponding Members and Honorary Associates were elected as follows:

*Corresponding Members*: Dr G. H. Hyslop, Dr C. G. Jung, Mr R. Lambert, M. Maeterlinck, Professor Gardner Murphy, Professor T. K. Oesterreich, Dr J. B. Rhine, Dr Tanagra, Dr W. H. C. Tenhaeff, Dr R. Tischner, Mr C. Vett, M. Warcollier and Dr C. Winther.

*Honorary Associates*: Mrs W. Carington, Miss H. Carruthers, Dr G. de Boni, Mr J. A. Hill, Rev. W. S. Irving, Mrs K. Richmond, Professor C. Sage, Mr B. Shackleton, Mr G. H. Spinney, Dr R. H. Thouless, Miss Nea Walker and Dr Wereide.

## MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

THE 202nd Private Meeting of the Society was held in the Society's Rooms on Monday, 10 January 1949, at 6.30 p.m., when a lecture on 'Personality Tests in Psychical Research' was given by Dr R. H. Thouless.

The 203rd Private Meeting of the Society was held on Friday, 28 January 1949, at 6.30 p.m., when an account of his recent visit to the Parapsychology Laboratory of Duke University was given by Dr R. H. Thouless.

The 204th Private Meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, 24 February 1949, after the Annual General Meeting, when a talk on 'How Do Birds Navigate? An Account of Recent Experiments with Homing Pigeons' was given by Dr A. J. C. Wilson.

The 205th Private Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, 5 March 1949, at 2.30 p.m., when a paper on 'The Use of Physical Instruments in Psychical Research' was read by Mr Richard Wilson.

The 206th Private Meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 15 March 1949, at 6.30 p.m., when a talk on 'Dowsing' was given by Major C. A. Pogson, M.C.

The 207th Private Meeting of the Society was held on Friday, 8 April 1949, at 6.30 p.m., when a lecture on 'The Limits of Sense Perception' was given by Mr M. Hansel.



## NEW MEMBERS

*(Elected 17 January 1949)*

- ANDERSON, MISS D. M., 12a Leith Close, London, N.W.9.  
 ANSPACHER, MRS L. K., Purchase, New York, U.S.A.  
 BANKS, C. H., 6 Bucklesham Road, Ipswich.  
 BURSALIOGLU, ZIYA, Izmit Lisesi, Izmit, Turkey.  
 COOPER, C. J., M.A., 52 Elm Park Road, London, S.W.3.  
 DOSSETOR, THE REV. F. E., Bromham Rectory, Chippenham, Wilts.  
 HILL, MRS P. ROWLAND, Kyneton, Finham, Coventry.  
 KREGLINGER, MRS OSCAR, 187 Chaussée de Malines, Antwerp, Belgium.  
 LEEK, F. J., 79 Kingswinford Road, Holly Hall, nr Dudley, Worcs.  
 LE MESURIER, L. J., CDR. R.N., O.B.E., Candor Cottage, Westerland,  
 Marldon, Paignton, Devon.  
 ORAM, JAMES, Belle Vue House, Devizes, Wilts.  
 SUTTON, MRS C. A., 4002 Montrose Avenue, Westmount, Montreal,  
 Canada.  
 VAVASSEUR-DURELL, MRS, 14 Turner Close, London, N.W.11.  
 WALLER, T. A., East Lodge Hotel, St Peter's Grove, York.

*Student-Associate*

- Akko, C., 18 Frankfort Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin.

*(Elected 24 February 1949)*

- BEVAN, MRS, 39 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W.1.  
 BILLINGHAM, MISS K., 3 Albion Place, Northampton.  
 BONNETT, A. E., M.B., 115 College Hill Road, Harrow Weald, Middx.  
 CLARKE, R. A., 9 Downs Bridge Road, Beckenham, Kent.  
 COBB, H. I., Jr, Sarles Street, Mount Kisco, N.Y., U.S.A.  
 COOKE, MISS M., 23 Tehidy Road, Camborne, Cornwall.  
 DE PEYER, DR HILDA, 24 West End Avenue, Pinner, Middx.  
 FIELD, MRS L. F. D., Clivehayes, Churchinford, Taunton, Som.  
 GOLDSMITH, MISS M., M.A., 1 Granville Square, Wharton Street,  
 London, W.C.1.  
 GOLDSMITHS' LIBRARIAN, University of London, Senate House, London,  
 W.C.1.  
 GROSJEAN, THE REV. PAUL, S. J., 24 Boulevard Saint-Michel, Brussels 4,  
 Belgium.  
 HARDY, PROFESSOR A. C., F.R.S., 15 Belbroughton Road, Oxford.  
 McDONALD, CAPTAIN T. F., O.B.E., c/o Blue Star Line Ltd, Weddel  
 House, 15 West Smithfield, London, E.C.1.  
 ROSE, R. K. H., 31 Ocean Street, Narrabeen, New South Wales, Australia.  
 SIM, ALASTAIR, 2 Devonshire Street, London, W. 1.  
 TIMONEN, JUHO, M.A., 12 Witley Court, Woburn Place, London, W.C.1.  
 TRIPP, THE REV. N. F., Diddlebury Vicarage, Craven Arms, Salop.

*Student-Associates*

- Barnaby, C. F., Harroway Villa, Penton, Andover, Hants.  
 Nathan, R. E., 6 Bearsted House, Middlesex Street, London, E.1.  
 Salter, M. de G., The Crown House, Newport, Essex.

